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A True and Impartial

ACCOUNT

OF THE
*Birth, Parentage, Education,
Life and Conversation*
OF

Edmund Audley,

Who was Executed at Tyburn on Wednesday the 22d. of June, 1698. for the Barbarous Murther of Mrs. Hannah Bullevant in St. Martins le Grand, near Aldersgate.

AS ALSO,

An Account of his Marriage with a Ministers Daughter at Exeter; the occasion of his leaving her, and his coming to London; with other strange passages of his Life from his Birth, to the time of his shameful Death.

To which is added,

The Particulars of his Tryal and Condemnation; as also his Disputes with several Divines in Newgate, together with his Speech and Confession at the place of Execution.

likewise, An Account of the sad Accident that happened at his going out of Newgate, by the Fall of St. Pulchers-Church-Wall, which killed several Persons, and dangerously wounded many others.

Licensed according to Order:

London, Printed by J. N. in Little Britain, 1698.

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A True and Impartial Account of the Birth, Parentage, Life and Conversation of Edmund Audley, &c.

MR. Edmund Audley was Born at *Swansey* (it being a Sea-Port in *Clamorganshire* in *Wales*) Anno 1661. His Father Mr. *Humphrey Audley* being a Merchant, who dealt in most sorts of Commodities, and lived in good Credit and Reputation, being no less beloved than well known in those parts, having two Sons and two Daughters, the eldest of the Sons was this *Edmond*, to whom he gave good Education, in order to qualifie him for the management of his business in the way of Merchandizing. However, finding his Inclinations wholly bent to Learning, and seeing he had improved himself therein, so far as to attain Arithmetick, fair Writing, and several parts of the Mathematicks; his Father advised him to keep a School in *Swansey*, which he willingly assented to, and accordingly continued in that Station with indifferent success for two or three years; but being of a mutable and unsettled Fancy, he desired of his Father to procure him a place of Residence at *Exeter*, in order for a School there, which in a short time was effected, and that seemingly to his satisfaction. However, he had not been long in *Exeter* before he fell in Love with a Beautiful Young Woman

Daughter

Daughter to an Nonconformist Minister, whose Father had a respect for him, upon the account of his Parents, whom he knew, but not so much as to make him his Son in Law, which Mr. *Edmond* perceiving, and knowing the Maid had a more than ordinary Love for him, took the advantage of the Old Gentlemans absence one Evening, and stole her away privately in the Night; And the next Morning three or four Miles from thence, was Married together, contrary to the knowledge of her Father and Mother: Which news, tho' very unwelcome to them, yet considering it was past Remedy, they instantly sent for their Son and Daughter, and in short, a Reconciliation was made, and Mr. *Audley* and his Bride were admitted into the number of their Family, where they lived lovingly together for some time, till a strange Whimsy (or rather Jealous Humour) possessed his Noddle, that his Wife was Disloyal, though he could never shew any just ground for that suspicion, yet his Jealousie encreasing, (it being a Fire which is sooner kindled, than extinguished) he secretly made a motion to some Ministers for a Divorcement; but not being able to give a just Reason for such a separation, his Motion was not only rejected, but himself much reproved, for having such an unworthy opinion of an Innocent and Vertuous Woman (for so she was generally esteem'd) However, being much perplexed, he takes a Horse, (some say without leave) it being in the Year 1695. and comes to
London,

London, leaving his Wife with Child, who no sooner understood of his rude and abrupted departure, but miscarried, and soon after dyed.

I shall omit particularizing his undecent Behaviour towards her before his departure, and of his attempting to sell her, being loath to reflect too much upon the unhappy Memory of this unfortunate Person, and that chiefly for the sake of his Father and Mother, who at the writing hereof were both living at the place aforesaid, being very Godly, Religious, and honest People.

Being come to *London*, he much frequented the Company of the Dissenting Clergy, and used all the endeavours possible to advance himself to the Ministry, having procured a Letter from an Eminent Nonconformist Minister of the *West of England*, by way of Recommendation to Mr. James, whose Meeting is in *Nightingale Lane* in *East-Smithfield*, where he was admitted to Preach several times; and was also introduced to Preach several times in many *Presbyterian* Meetings in and about *London*, particularly in *Southwark*, &c. However, having no fix'd Station assign'd him, he at last became Usher to a School near *Eastcheap*, where his Revenue only amounted to 5*s.* per Week and Dyet; but his Pride and lofty Spirit soon put him out of that mean (tho' honest) Employ, often saying (to use his own Expressions) That he was called to proclaim the Gospel; but whether with Sword and Pistol, I leave the Reader to judge, for he was often observed b

his Landlady (where he lodged about a twelve month since) to threaten several Persons (whom he called Traytors and Conspirators) with severe punishments, if he could bring his Business about, which in part he perform'd upon the Person of Mrs. *Bullivant*, as hereafter will appear.

Having often frequented many Meeting-houses, and preached in others, he of late much used to come to Mr. *Dolittle's* Meeting in *Silver-street*; and we understand by his own Confession since, that he much observed one Mrs. *Hannah Bullivant*, pretending that she was in a Plot against the King and Government, though I believe there's more in it than he has declared) he goes to Mr. *Taylor* a Gun-Smith near *Algate*, and asked him, If a Gentleman had not been there over Night for a pair of Pistols; and being answered in the Affirmative, he said he came for them, and in short, they made a Bargain. During which time, Mr. *Audley* behaved himself like a wary Buyer, and not like one distracted, as the Gun-Smith made Oath of at his Tryal: Having paid for them, he gets suitable Amunition, and a Sword by his side, as also a Lathing-Hammer in his Britches, and goes sometime after to the Meeting-house in *Silver-street*, where he finds Mrs. *Bullivant*, his pretended King-killer, but whether he minded the Sermon or Mrs. *Bullivant* most, may be easily judged by the following discourse.

The Meeting being done, out comes *Audley* to watch for this supposed Traytoriss, but not being willing to put his barbarous design in Execution, where so many People were together, (as fearing to kill the Righteous with the Wicked,) he followed her till she went into a Shop in *Silver-street*, where having occasion to stay about half an hour, *Audley* walked backward and forward till she came out, and then he dogg'd her into
Saint

Saint Martins le Grand, near *Aldersgate*, where seeing
 the Street clear of People, fired one of his Pistols at her
 which tho' it missed, yet the noise so affrighted her (be-
 ing so nigh) that she ran directly into a Glovers Shop
 at the Corner of *Bell-Court*, where he closely followed
 her, and Shot her dead with the other Pistol upon the
 place; whereupon he was seized, and that Evening be-
 ing the first of *June*, was by *Sir Edward Clark* commit-
 ted to *Newgate*, where he remain'd till *Thursday, June*
the 9th. at which time he was brought to the Bar at
 the *Old-Bully*, where he was Indicted for the aforesaid
 Barbarous Murther, who after the Jury was call'd and
 sworn, had the boldness (or rather Impudence) to ex-
 cept both against Judges and Jury too, telling the Court
 That they were concern'd in a Plot and Conspiracy against the
 King, and therefore he appeal'd to the King and Council
 to be tryed: Adding, That he would not be tryed by those
 who were Enemies to the King and Government. However, the
 Court rejecting his frivolous and trifling Arguments
 proceeded to his Tryal. And being asked whether Guil-
 ty or not? he said, He owned that he kill'd the *Wo-*
man, but pleaded Not Guilty of the Murther, alledg-
 ing, That the deceased was (with several others) con-
 cern'd in a Plot to take away the King's Life, and that
 he had been at several Magistrates (whom he named)
 in order to have her and others Apprehended, and find-
 ing no Warrant could be obtain'd, and the King and
 Nation in danger, he conceived it lawful in such a de-
 sperate case to execute Justice himself. Whereupon
 four Evidences successively were called, who deposed
 That the Prisoner pursued Mrs. *Bullivant*, shooting on
 Pistol at her in *St. Martins* near *Aldersgate*, and after-
 wards followed her into a Glovers Shop in *Bell-Co-*
urt and there shot her on the left side of the Body, of which
 Wound she immediately dyed: And further deposed
 That he said that he had killed *Queen Mary*, who had

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then there Incognito, and that he endeavoured to escape.
The Evidences deposed, That they had several times
heard the Prisoner Preach at Meeting-houses, and ne-
ver could perceive either in his Behaviour or Discourse,
that he was any ways troubled with Madness, Frenzy,
or any thing like being Craiz'd or Distracted. And
being asked some Questions of his knowledge, relating
to the particulars of his Pretended Plot, he said, That
he made Confession in Court, it was the way to have the
lottery escape: But added, that he knew of 30 Waggon
load of Arms which was brought into the City for the late
King James's Service one morning before day, and that he
had seen the Prince of Wales in the Lobby Chamber; and
that he had kill'd the Woman, supposing her to be the late
Queen, having seen her often at Mr. Dolittle's Meeting-
house. But being told that King James's Queen was of
contrary Religion to come to a Meeting-house. He
replied, That the very Devils could transform themselves
into Angels of Light. However, the Evidence being
plain and full, the Jury thereupon brought him in
Guilty of Wilful Murder; and on the Monday follow-
ing he received Sentence of Death for the same.

His Conference with several Divines, during his Confinement in New-
gate some Days before Execution, concerning the Barbarous Murder
of Mrs. Bullivant.

A Learned Divine of the Church of England told him, That by
his cruel Murder, he had stained the Christian Religion he professed.
He replied, That tho' many apprehended it to be a Bloody Fact, yet
he thought otherwise of it, by reason he thought that Mrs. Bullivant
was in a wicked Conspiracy against the present Government. But
being told, A private Person ought not to have killed her, but rather
have accused her in some Lawful Court of Justice. He said, He con-
sidered the Fact to be no Murder, by reason his Conscience stirred him up
to perform it. But he was told, That was a wicked and Devilish

And further asked him, Whether any one had hired him to
murder her. He answered in the Negative. And being further
question'd, What was the grounds of his Malice against her? He
reply'd, That he would give no further Account than what he
had

had done already. And seem'd much to depend upon his conceited knowledge, and continued very fullen and obstinate, in a way resembling a Lunatick, or distracted Person, either in Discourse or Behaviour, as Dr. Bedford and several other Divines can witness.

On the 22d of June, about Noon, Mr. Edmond Audley was convey'd from Newgate to Tyburn in a Cart with two other Criminals; appeared very obstinate and wilful for a considerable time, who being asked, What induced him to kill Mrs. Bullivant? He said, *He did it for the common good of the Kingdom*: And continued to repeat his former Whimsical Stories of a Plot against the King; and upon the Ordinary's telling him, That 'twas suppos'd he killed her upon his preventing his Marriage with a Young Gentlewoman. He said, *was very false*, and added, *that there was a Conspiracy to bring in a late King James*; wishing, *that he had an opportunity to declare his mind to the King about it*, adding *that he knew several of the Plotters*; being desired to declare who they were, He said, *he would make no Confession to any but his Majesty*. Whereupon it was demand'd in what Profession he Dyed, He said, *in the Faith of a Christian as revealed in the Scripture, desiring the Ministers not to ask him any more Questions binder his Devotions*. So after having refused to join in Prayer with the Ordinary, he made a short and silent Prayer to himself, and was turn'd off with the rest of the Criminals.

At his going from Newgate with the other Criminals, a very Strange and Surprizing Accident happned, for just before the Cart (wherein he was with two other Criminals, reached the end of St. Pulchers Church-yard, the Wall being thronged and Loaded with Crouds of Numerous Spectators who pressed to see him, the greatest part of it fell Flat to the Ground, almost from one end to the other, and with it Multitudes of People one upon another, doing Extraordinary Damage, Killing a VVine Porter out right, who Dwelt in Nightring Lane, and with the violence of its fall, Miserably Squeezed to pieces Armes, Leggs, Backs and Thighs of many, (Some says) to the Number of above 40 Persons, 4 or 5 of which are since Dead, of the VVounds, and tis Doubted that several of the rest are Mortally hurt. This unhappy Accident obliged the Officers to Convey the Criminals through Pye-Corner and down Hoffer-Lane, the like having never been known in the Memory of any Man Living before.

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